



*Maryland Association of*  
**LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS**

February 1, 2022

**SUPPORT – HB454 - Correctional Services - Pregnancy and Postpartum Support (Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act)**

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of HB454. Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland conduct needs assessments of their communities. Having children while being incarcerated strips women of their ability to raise their children with safety and dignity. Local Management Boards support allowing incarcerated women to have more time with their children, and establishing the Healthy Start Bonding program to facilitate strong bonds between incarcerated women and their children.

Separation after giving birth is traumatizing for the parent and child, and creates poor mental health outcomes for both mother and child. Being separated also can impact a child's social and emotional development. The Healthy Start Bonding program will be facilitated by professionals with expertise in maternal-child health and well-being. Supporting parents being able to bond with their children will improve childhood outcomes.

We urge you to support HB454 to prevent the forced separation of Mothers from their children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P M Brown".

Pamela M. Brown, PhD  
Legislative Chair  
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards